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NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY

The safety and security of our citizens must be our first priority. America's national security is dependent on a strong, effective military and smart foreign policy. To best protect our nation, the United States must employ a comprehensive strategy that utilizes all of our military, diplomatic, and economic strengths. We must work to ensure effective alliances with nations that share our commitment to freedom and liberty. At the same time, we must also be prepared to stop the deadly threats against us from terrorist and rogue nations.

Representative Schwartz is working to promote a sound foreign policy that will make America safer and the world a more secure place. In particular, Representative Schwartz has focused on policies to ensure that the United States military is capable of handling twenty-first century threats. Additionally, Representative Schwartz is committed to hunting down and destroying terrorist organizations, successfully concluding our mission in Iraq, expanding democracy abroad, and responding effectively to global crises.

21ST CENTURY MILITARY

As the United States strives to meet the security challenges of the twenty-first century, it is critical that the United States military remains the strongest and most flexible fighting force in the world. Representative Schwartz has consistently supported the implementation of measures to fund our defense infrastructure, arm our men and women serving on the front lines with the resources and equipment they need to stay safe and protect the nation, and invest in the technology needed to modernize our military from a cold-war era structure into a more mobile future force.

Representative Schwartz recognizes the central role the National Guard and Reserve Components play in our modern military, and she has fought to maintain troop levels within the Guard and to provide all of the Reserves with the equipment they need to successfully complete their missions. Additionally, Representative Schwartz is a strong advocate of the *GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century*, a plan that would guarantee our troops – active, reserved, and retired – our veterans, and their families receive the pay, health care, mental health services, and other benefits they have earned and deserve.

WAR IN IRAQ

It is time for the United States to complete our mission in Iraq. Specifically, we must accelerate the handover of security, political and economic responsibilities to the democratically-elected Iraqi government. While this will likely require a continued military presence for the immediate future, the United States cannot and should not be forced to fully shoulder this burden for much longer. In particular, it is vital that our Reserves and National Guard, who are needed here to defend the homeland, begin returning home in 2006.

For this strategy to succeed, Representative Schwartz believes that a number of steps must transpire. First, the United States and our allies must redouble efforts to train and equip a capable Iraqi Security Force. Second, we must better execute economic reconstruction efforts so that Iraq's oil production, clean water supply, and energy production are at least returned to pre-war levels. There is no doubt these diminished capacities are hampering employment and economic opportunities in Iraq. Third, we must clarify our support of Iraqi independence and sovereignty to both the Iraqi people and the international community by unambiguously announcing that the United States will not build permanent military bases in Iraq. Fourth, we must better engage our allies and the international community by forming a regional diplomatic initiative to help Iraq secure its borders, take down terrorist networks, and support Iraqi security forces and economic reconstruction.

Success in Iraq is contingent upon the formation of a unified, inclusive and honest government that is capable of providing for all of Iraq. While we must do everything in our power to encourage this, ultimately, this responsibility falls on the shoulders of the Iraqi people and government. The United States must make clear that our military presence is not an open-ended declaration and is instead contingent upon progress in the formation of a stable and functioning Iraqi government.

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

The most dangerous threats to America's security are terrorist organizations and the states that support them. Four years after September 11th, Osama bin Laden and key members of Al Qaeda remain at large, Al Qaeda-affiliated terror groups have taken hold in Iraq, hundreds of tons of loose nuclear materials remain unsecured and vulnerable to terrorist theft, and Iran and North Korea continue to defy the international community with their pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Representative Schwartz understands the severity of these threats and what is needed to confront them. She believes our first objective should be to finish the job in Afghanistan by ending the threat posed by the Taliban and hunting down Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri and other key members of Al Qaeda. In Iraq, we must destroy Al Qaeda in Iraq and the terrorist groups that continue to terrorize the Iraqi people.

To prevent loose nuclear weapons from getting into the hands of terrorist groups, Representative Schwartz has fought to fully fund the *Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction*, a vital tool in ensuring the secure transport, storage, and dismantlement of nuclear, chemical and other weapons from the former Soviet Union.

The threat of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons or nuclear materials increases when countries like Iran and North Korea enhance their nuclear programs. To pressure the Iranian regime to forgo its nuclear ambitions, Representative Schwartz is a cosponsor of the *Iran Freedom Support Act*, bipartisan legislation that would strengthen and codify sanctions against the Iranian regime.

Iran's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons; their support for international terrorist organizations; and their abhorrent human rights practices demand action by the United States and the international community.

Over the last few years, North Korea has withdrawn from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, expelled International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors, and quadrupled its nuclear arsenal. Representative Schwartz believes that the United States needs to be stronger in our approach to North Korea. Whether through the framework of six-party or bilateral negotiations, the United States must develop a comprehensive roadmap for North Korea with intermediate confidence-building measures. The first step is a freeze of North Korea's nuclear programs with the final outcome complete and verifiable elimination of their nuclear capability.

EXPANDING DEMOCRACY ABROAD

The best long-term strategy to winning the war on terror and enhancing our safety is through the promotion of democracy and freedom abroad. Free and just societies provide their citizens with opportunity and hope – in place of repression, fear and the lack of sustainable employment that often drives terrorist recruitment.

From her seat on the sixteen-member, bipartisan *House Democracy Assistance Commission*, Representative Schwartz is advising parliaments in emerging democracies throughout the world, including Afghanistan, Indonesia and Ukraine, on the need to establish a rule of law that is accountable and transparent, allows for legislative independence, and includes appropriate oversight and checks and balances.

Additionally, America cannot deal with global security issues successfully unless the problems of inadequate education, AIDS and international poverty are addressed. That is why Representative Schwartz is a supporter of legislation to reduce by half the number of people living in poverty by 2015. Representative Schwartz has also participated in congressional efforts urging President Bush to seek a global commitment to fund education programs in 25 African countries. In addition, we must promote viable public education systems in developing countries, and thereby thwart the teachings of extremist schools that infect young minds and instead encourage tolerance and opportunity.

THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

For over 50 years, America's national security has relied on cooperation with the international community through international organizations, such as the United Nations. As we confront the security challenges of the twenty-first century, including terrorist organizations that often do not operate within the constraints of a national boundary, the United Nations, as well as NATO and other international organizations, will play a vital part. Therefore, the United States needs to play an active role in prompting reform at the United Nations while also repairing our relationships with our allies and with international organizations.